(e) whether the State Governments have been consulted in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (g) Requests have been received from Domestic Scheduled Operators for concessions on parking charges at Non-Metro Airports which are under examination.

Airports in Tamil Nadu

1596. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop and modernise non-metro airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken for its implementation;

(c) whether the airports in the cities of Tamil Nadu such as Tiruchi, Madurai and Coimbatore would also be covered under this programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has drawn up a plan for development of the tentatively selected non-metro airports. The plan aims for development of Passenger Terminal Buildings on air side and city side development in two phases.

Techno Economic Feasibility Studies (TEFS) have been completed by Indian Financial Consultants (IFC) and Global Technical Advisors (GTA) for airports under phase-I. For remaining Non-metro airports under phase-II, action is in hand for appointment of IFC and GTA to carry out TEFS. Target date specific to each airport will depend upon the viability and area of developments identified by the Consultants.

(c) Selection of airports would depend on traffic density, regional distribution and other commercial aspects.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Conference on Civil Aviation Safety and Security

1597. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called for a global partnership to make air travel fully secure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a Conference on Civil Aviation Safety and Security was held in New Delhi recently; and

(d) if so, the details of discussions held in the Conference and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Directorate General of Civil Aviation organised a two day seminar on the subject "In-Flight Security" under the 'EU-India Civil Aviation Project', which was conducted by an European Union (EU) expert on 14th — 15th July, 2005.

(d) Issues regarding airport and airline security and the practices followed by international agencies at various international airports were discussed in the seminar. The seminar resulted in an enhanced awareness of security and safety requirements and procedures as per the International Civil Aviation Organization and EU standards.

Occupancy rate of national carriers

1598. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the occupancy rate of national air carriers is lower than that of the private airlines;